

BELT  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 21, 2026  
7:00 PM

The second regularly scheduled meeting of January 2026 was called to order by Mayor Travis Page who began with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Mayor Travis Page, Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby, council members included Paul Heikkila, Corbin Keaster, Becky Gorton, Michelle Stinson, Bob Williams, & April Wells. Cascade County Sheriff Deputy Alec Lugo and Great West Engineering Josh Sommer were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Deputy Lugo informed the council that he received a list of five vehicles in town that haven't been moved in quite a while. Deputy Lugo spoke with owners of four of the cars and had the cars moved, he also tagged one vehicle. Lugo also stated that crosswalks are in the process of being more investigated, they include putting one over Castner between the Senior Center and Belt Valley Bank. The other is at the end of Church Street to the school.

The minutes from the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting were moved to approval as written by Paul Heikkila and seconded by April Wells. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Claims/warrants submitted for approval were moved to approval by Michelle Stinson and seconded by April Wells.

The complaint log was reviewed. No complaints were submitted.

NEW BUSINESS: Consideration New Tires for Municipal Dump Truck- Public Works Codi Heikkila got a quote for new tires from Tire Rama and is getting more quotes from other places both in Great Falls and around the community. The council decided they want to see other quotes and warranties before making their final decision. This topic will be tabled until the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The second topic under new business was consideration MT League of Cities & Towns contract. The contract was created to complete the Annual Financial Report (AFR) and give new clerk/treasurer Kellen Kirby some training opportunity. AFR is the top priority as it is already late, and an \$80 late fee has been issued. Kirby will use the opportunity working on the AFR with MT League of Cities & Towns to ask other questions and gain more knowledge of the position and responsibilities. The contract will end on June 30, 2026. April Wells moved to approve the contract with MT League of Cities & Towns. Cobin Keaster seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The final article for discussion under new business is the consideration Rick Hertz (hours). Rick met with Mayor Page on Sunday afternoon to discuss only wanting to work 20 hours a week, that includes summer. Rick worked 40 hours a week during summer months last year and just doesn't have the time to do it now. Rick stated to Mayor Page that if additional hours are needed to help with something, he would be willing to come in and help. Council members collectively thought Rick was at 20 hours a week already. They knew he was 40

hours a week when he was the only Public Works employee but thought it dropped back to 20 hours when Codi was hired. There was no vote on this consideration as the council felt he was already there so there would be no change.

OLD BUSINESS: Review of Current Fire Service Agreement between City of Belt & Belt Rural Fire District. Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby brought to attention that it is \$558.91/mill. This question has been brought up in past meetings. The Rural Fire Department is requesting 20 mills compared to the 4.5 mills they are currently receiving. This change would have to be put on the ballot for next November for the citizens to vote on. Before going on the ballot, the council would like to know how much money in the last two years the city of Belt spent on electricity through Northwestern Energy and propane through Woodhall Distributing on the fire hall. They also want to know how much money the fire department is receiving per year from Rural. The second topic for discussion is an update on the water project from Josh Sommer of Great West Engineering. Josh updated on warranty work on Upper Row and Valley Drive. He also mentioned the road settling on Anaconda Street. Anaconda Street along with chip sealing and additional patch work will be completed this spring. Josh brought to the attention of the council members that invoices for Great West engineering, JR Civil, and Department of Revenue 1% have not been paid on a timely manner and if they were paid, they were only paid partial payments. This was a big shock to the council members as they figured the invoices were getting paid in full as they were coming in. Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby will get ahold of Ki-Ai McBride tomorrow morning (01/22/2026) and speak with her about having her come out to Belt and work with him getting invoices caught up and a plan set for future invoices. Josh mentioned that the water tank draw leaking test would be taking place at midnight tonight. Josh will shut off the pumps at midnight and turn them back on at 4am seeing how much water the tanks are losing in the four-hour span. Josh would like to be on the agenda for the next council meeting February 4<sup>th</sup> as he will be bringing a contract amendment proposal. This will be on the next agenda. The final topic was clerk/treasurer Kellen Kirby giving a quick update on the 90 days overdue balance shut off notices. Kellen stated that there were 23 accounts that were over the 90 days. On Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup> shut off notices were posted on 20 residents giving until Thursday January 15<sup>th</sup> at 5PM to make payment or other arrangements. If payments or other arrangements weren't made water would be shut off Friday morning January 16<sup>th</sup>. Out of the 20 residents that got the notice, water was shut off at 1 residence. Kellen found this to be very successful and will continue to use this method if accounts get to that point once again.

PUBLIC WORKS INPUT: N/A

COUNCIL REPORTS- Paul Heikkila mentioned talking with Kristy Stroop about the possibility and the how to get the Marijuana shop here in town taxed. This will have to be on the ballot in November to move forward with. Paul also mentioned that he was voted in as Chairman of the council but that was before all the other current members of the council were elected. He wanted to see if anyone else would like to take on the position, but it was unanimously stated that Paul remains as chair. April Wells was curious about Codi Heikkila

and his testing for wastewater and water certifications. In Codi's employment contract he must achieve both within 1 year of employment. April just wanted to know the progress. Becky Gorton asked about a letter her neighbor received from Republic Services. They sent out a letter requesting certain residents to move their garbage from the alley to the main street in front of their house on collection days due to safety concerns. Mayor Travis Page will contact Ryan Coffman of Republic Services and get more information.

CLERK/TREASURER INPUT: N/A

MAYOR'S REPORT- Travis talked about TextMyGov a notification system for the town and how the asking price and the usability of the system would not be beneficial for the community at this time. He felt that if there were constant projects going on it may be more beneficial but at this time it is not. Travis also spoke on the sander situation. Normont sent over their opinion on the old sander. They quoted an additional \$1400 to sand blast and clean up hoping to not punch holes through the side with the sand blasting. With the additional cost it was determined that a new stain-less steel sander would be purchased.

PUBLIC INPUT: N/A

There being no further business to attend to, council member Paul Heikkila motioned to adjourn the meeting, Corbin Keaster seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

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Approved by Mayor Travis Page

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Attested to and submitted by Clerk/Treasurer Kellen Kirby